VOLUME 24, NO. 1 NOVEMBER 1992

CAROLINA COUNTRY

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Carolina Electric Cooperatives provides reliable and safe electric power to more than 1.6 million North Carolinians served by the state's 28 non-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. *Carolina Country* publishes information on issues of interest to co-op consumer-members who live and work in more than 600,000 homes, farms and businesses in 95 of North Carolina's 100 counties.

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Our cover features a detail from "The Orchard," by Mel Steele of Rockingham County. For more information, see page 6.

OUR VIEW

CO-OPS OFFER SERVICE BEYOND POWER

A commitment to helping people

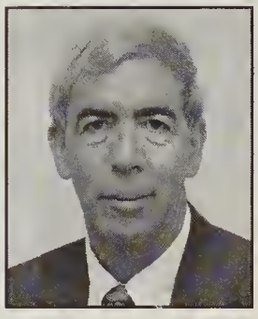
BY LLOYD H. LEE

North Carolina's electric cooperatives come in various shapes and sizes but they all share a common foundation: a commitment to helping people.

The commitment shows in the co-ops' efforts to provide quality electric service at reasonable rates for the 650,000 homes and businesses they serve across the state. That's always the top priority. Yet these member-owned businesses go far beyond that in reaching out to help their members and all the people in their communities.

The nonprofit co-ops do this in part by taking the initiative to address critical needs with their own resources. They:

- Help raise money for people in need, members and non-members alike.
- Support health care services.
- Sponsor educational programs at the co-op, in the schools and in special programs that help people learn through experience.
- Award scholarships to young people, many of whom could not otherwise further their education.
- Vigorously promote economic development in their territories by wooing industries and supporting homegrown ventures.
- Obtain interest-free loans to help local businesses retool or expand.



Lloyd H. Lee

In addition, the co-ops often become focal points for sundry other good causes that are initiated elsewhere.

Examples of these outreach efforts are mentioned in two unrelated articles in this magazine.

Harkers Island EMC, the state's smallest co-op with about 1,700 members, also operates the island's water system. And it serves as a sort of central switchyard for keeping various community projects on track. *(See feature beginning on page 8.)*

When Hurricane Andrew hit south Florida, the state's co-op network quickly oversaw collection of about 90,000 pounds of materials to help hurricane victims. Employees, consumer-members and the general public assembled the items in just a few days, loading them onto trucks at three Electric Membership Corporations across the state.

The cooperative spirit was clearly at work as members and employees joined together to help people they've never met hundreds of miles away. The response was remarkable. I don't think I've ever seen anything quite like it.

The co-ops' relief efforts drew praise from the North Carolina Food Bank, which pooled relief items collected by various organizations for shipment to Florida.

Meanwhile, the cooperatives also collected $16,500 to assist sister co-ops that were battered by Andrew in southcentral Louisiana. *(See story on page 14.)*

Although projects like these occasionally make headlines or a spot on the 6 o'clock news, they're old hat for the co-ops. They have been operating this way ever since they were organized to offer a helping hand to rural people.

They extended it by providing people with energy to get things done—energy that has helped them handle much of life's drudgery more easily and more conveniently.

They still keep the energy flowing but they also continue to offer that friendly helping hand to people.

For the cooperatives, it's just business as usual.

Lloyd H. Lee is general manager of Tideland EMC, Pantego.

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COVER: DETAIL FROM MEL STEELE PAINTING, "THE ORCHARD"

Our cover this month is a detail from a painting by Rockingham County artist Mel Steele.

The painting, entitled "The Orchard," is the artist's only limited edition print release for 1992. The complete image is reproduced above.

Steele, a consumer-member of Davidson Electric Membership Corporation, Lexington, has issued 1,000 signed and numbered prints of "The Orchard."

The artist, who grew up in Madison, has a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. In 1977, he returned to Rockingham County, where he worked as an artist and commercial designer.

Over the past nine years, Steele has done paintings that are now in private collections throughout the country and issued 20 successful limited edition reproductions.

He recently issued another print that was prepared through a special commission from JFG Coffee Company. That image is available as a print and as a matching collector plate. See ad, page 2, for details.

Each signed and numbered print of "The Orchard" measures 21 by 28 inches with an image area of 16 by 24 inches. Copies are available for $95 each plus sales tax and shipping from Vermillion Studios, Route 9, Box 72, Reidsville, N.C. 27320. Phone (919) 342-3023.

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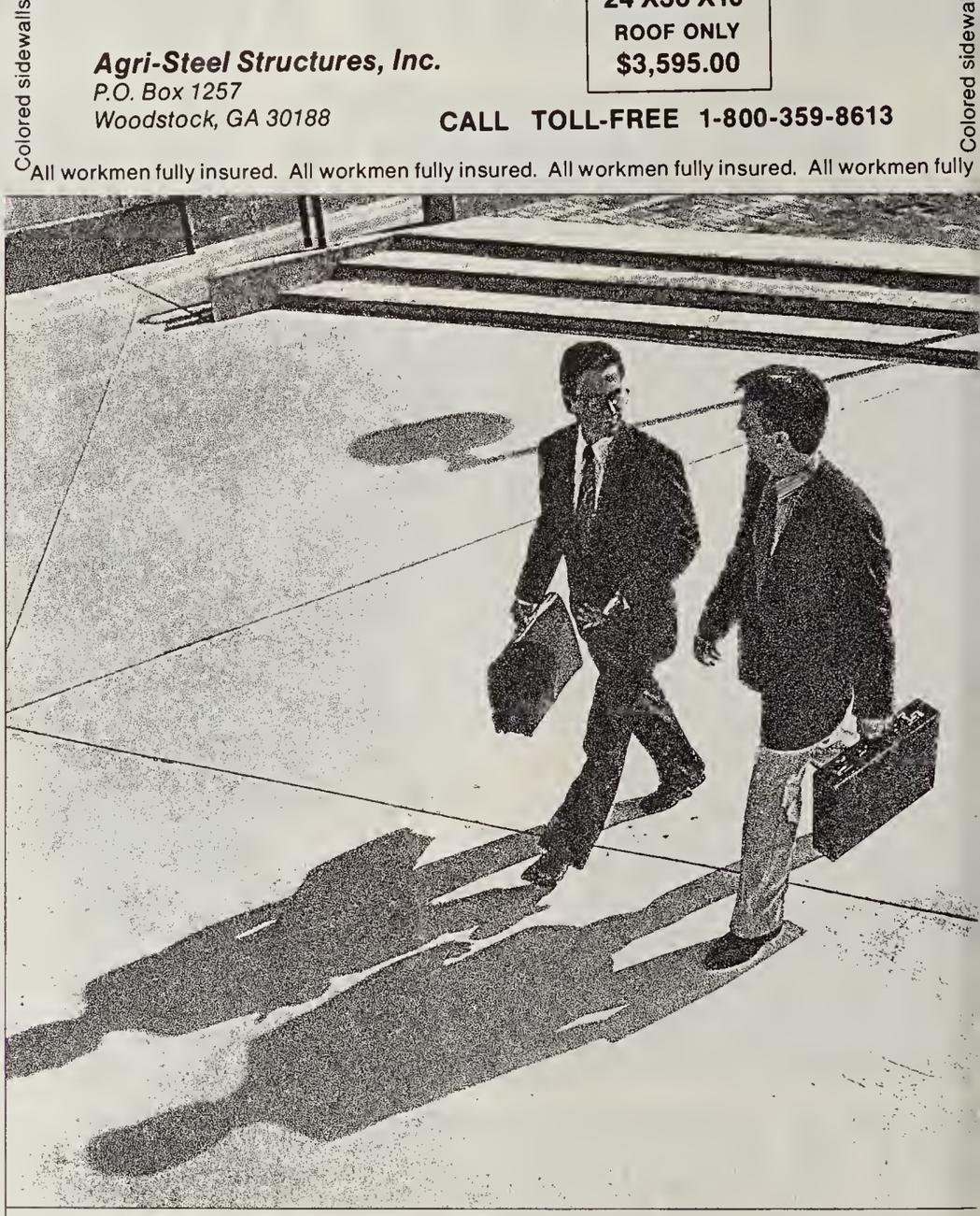

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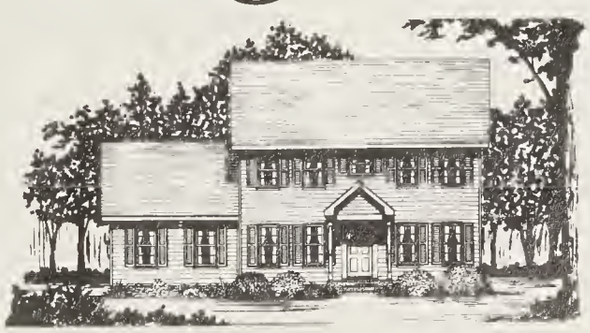

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FEATURE

SHOWING OLD SKILLS IN NEW LIGHT

Harkers Island holds more than memories

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY
MICHAEL E.C. GERY
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Harkers Island people remember summer evenings when they sailed across Back Sound to the ocean beach at Shackleford and Core Banks. It wasn't long ago, the 1960s and 1970s. The boat would get to the Banks in just a few minutes. They might grill fresh mullet and eat it with cornbread and Pepsi they brought from home. The kids would play games on the beach while the grown-ups chatted until night closed in.

Sometimes they slept in their camps, simple woodframe structures that had no plumbing or electric wiring. The clothesline out back was used mainly to dry mullet that had been split and salted.

What they left behind those evenings was anything but a hectic life. Harkers Island is one of the most peaceful places in North Carolina—an island just shy of 5 miles long where today's easy pace was set long ago by people who netted mullet, shucked oysters, built boats, carved wooden decoys, sewed quilts and ate loon stew for supper.

Islanders went to the Banks to feel free, they say. Out there they saw the horizon stretch beyond the ocean.

To savor the place and its heavenly light, they built the modest camps, which linked them to a place they consider hallowed ground—land that had been home for their ancestors.

The people are so close they get in one another's way from time to time.

The ancestors began leaving the Banks 100 years before, saying storms flooded and blew them off. Some of those Banks people simply balanced their houses, or parts of them, on skiffs and crossed the sound to rebuild at Harkers Island, Salter Path, "the Promised Land" area of Morehead City and other mainland villages. But they would return to the Banks, if only for an evening.

"There was an attitude of sharing and communal living that could only be experienced at the Banks," wrote Suzanne Yeomans Guthrie in 1987. "With the rat race forgotten, and keeping up with the Joneses of no importance, Banks campers could enjoy Mother Nature at her best, as their ancestors did."

By 1985 the National Park Service owned Shackleford Banks, Core Banks and the 28,000 acres of Cape Lookout National Seashore. Some camp owners who held deeds received long-term leases while others had only ancestral claims. Now, even the leases are running their course. The Banks will soon return totally to the wild. Then, the only campers will be tourists.

Suzanne Yeomans Guthrie remembers the gray days of December 1985 when neighbors decided they wanted to burn the Banks camps themselves—rather than wait for the Park Service to do it. From the shore of Harkers Island, women watched the smoke and wept.

"To be very honest," Guthrie said, "we did, at one time, think that we had a monopoly on our Island and on our Banks. We know now that we do not."

Harkers Islanders still go over to the Banks every chance they get. The family camps are gone, but that old feeling of freedom is still there. It's a sense of freedom they don't always feel on the island.

The island itself strikes the visitor because of its natural beauty and peacefulness—and because of the closeness of the people. You notice the closeness immediately.

Everyone on Harkers Island has neighbors who are close by. The population is approaching 2,000, and there isn't much land left to develop for housing or anything else.

Yet people keep coming.

The physical closeness breeds an equally intense social attachment among the citizens. When a Gillikin family's daughter was in critical condition for 37 days in a Durham hospital, not one of those 37 days passed without a car leaving the island to deliver comfort to the family 200 miles from home. And islanders greet one another with their own salute.

The people are so close they get in one another's way from time to time. The smallest slight can reverberate for days, months, sometimes years.

Even the Harkers Island Electric Membership Corporation, the 53-year-old consumer-owned electric cooperative that is a favorite son in the eyes of many islanders, is drawing fire from some neighbors. *(See related story page 10.)*

OLD SKILLS IN NEW LIGHT

The people of Harkers Island care so much about their place, they say they feel their souls swell at the simplest of scenes: an orange sunset over the blue water, a white workboat chugging into a quiet creek, a bent old scrub-brush oak tree, an invitation to share roasted oysters with cornmeal dumplings.

So as the place changes—and it is changing faster than any native was prepared for—the community is desperately clinging to such simple scenes in hopes of making them last. It works with some scenes, but not with others.

Hardly anyone makes a living by fishing here today. They fish for supplemental income. You can't go down to the dock and buy fish because the fishhouses are gone.

You can't go to Carl Lewis' store to bowl or dance. Or to the showhouse to watch a movie. Lewis' store and the showhouse are gone.

You can't go to Shackleford Banks in July and pen ponies. The ponies are gone.

But you can get someone on Harkers Island to build you a boat. Harkers Island boatbuilders designed the well-known flared bow for boats that navigate the shallow, choppy sounds; and boat works are still in business on the island. Even the island tradition of "backyard boatbuilding" persists in some yards.

The flared bow was designed by Harkers Island boatbuilders. This head boat was under construction at Alex Willis Boat Works in September.

The centuries-old art of carving waterfowl decoys might be called a growth industry on the island. The bird carvings have become so popular that all kinds of Down East residents have taken up the craft to try to catch some of the trade, even if they didn't learn the craft at the knee of a "real" carver.

Other traditional arts and skills provide a living for many islanders: baking cakes and breads, quilting rugs, guiding fishing parties, teaching school, singing, cutting hair, keeping a store, offering room and board, making model boats, painting pictures.

Since the bridge to the mainland was built in 1940, people have left the island to earn a living in Beaufort, Morehead City, or thereabouts. By far, the largest single employer of Harkers Island residents is the Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, more than an hour's drive away.

Young people leave the island daily to visit friends, watch a movie, attend high school. Those who leave for college rarely return. Those who stay have trouble getting good jobs and finding an affordable place to live. Real estate prices are beyond their reach. That is the most significant change of all.

FAMILY LAND VALUES

"Just a generation ago people didn't have to worry about land, because it was in the family," one resident said. "It didn't cross their minds to sell the land. The land went

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to the children. If they bought land, they bought it from someone who didn't need the land for their own young-uns. And you sold land because you didn't need it for your young-uns."

If there is an empty waterfront building lot on Harkers Island today, it will sell for more than $100,000. And it *will* sell, most likely to someone who has no ties to the island.

Almost one of every three Island homes is someone's vacation place. Outsiders who love shellfish, saltwater, shore lines and boats almost as much as Harkers Islanders do can better afford to buy property here than a long-time islander can. It's a fact of life here these days, and it has been since islanders came up with their own name for outsiders: "dingbatters."

The Harkers Island Red Raiders have an ideal practice field across Core Sound from Cape Lookout lighthouse.

Many islanders have a claim to the land only because of the efforts of the late Earl Cranston Davis and his wife, Lillian.

The legendary "Mr. Earl" rallied forces for

Harkers Island EMC: The Center of Attention

People lived on Harkers Island 200 years before they needed a road. They traveled on water or along the shore.

In 1900, island families formed a roadbuilding association. They cut a footpath, then built a road, and each family took responsibility for maintaining a section of it.

When the community wanted electricity, the families approached the project with the same self-help spirit. They formed a power cooperative in 1939, had a cable laid underwater from the mainland, and took responsibility for setting poles and setting policy. The co-op had 125 members, who were served by nine miles of overhead electric line. The county government eventually assumed road maintenance, but the Harkers Island Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) continues to provide service as a non-profit, member-owned cooperative. Today, the 1,172-member co-op is a central part of the community.

One of the co-op's founders, Earl C. Davis, served as manager from 1939 to 1946. His successor was another founder, Maxwell Willis, whose name was synonymous with the EMC for 38 years. Willis was thoroughly devoted to the co-op.

E. Travis Davis, an island native distantly related to "Mr. Earl," was appointed manager in 1977 after spending seven years with Carteret-Craven EMC, Morehead City.

When the cooperative turned 50 in 1989, the community staged an all-out celebration. They wrote and published a history of the co-op, and they composed two songs. Lineman Manley Rose Jr., with Clinton Nelson on guitar, sang the song "New Times" at the 50th Anniversary annual meeting: "We're glad to have power on our Island, we're glad to have power in our homes. Our EMC co-op's still growing, and we thank you for keeping it strong."

The tune had changed drastically by last spring, when the co-op's members assembled for the 53rd annual meeting. Travis Davis and the nine-member board were called on to defend policies and practices that had been followed for years without stirring complaint.

After a tense election three new board members were elected to succeed veteran incumbents.

As in any co-op, members control the Harkers Island EMC. By working through the elected board, they can pose questions, raise objections and seek changes in the way the co-op operates.

Harkers Island's electrification (1939), the bridge (1940), a new school (1957), a public water system (1967), and a medical center (1972, now closed).

In the 1970s, the couple divided a large tract of land on the "no'therd" side of the island that had been in the family since the community was settled. They sold those lots to local people for $100 per month, negotiable.

Davis died in 1988, and Miss Lillian died a year ago. Today, the Davis "home place" fronting Back Sound is for sale with a six-figure price tag. It would take a big boatload of Harkers Island natives to pool together that kind of money.

"But our heritage is ours," said Suzanne Yeomans Guthrie. "And no one can claim that but us."

They claim it proudly.

STAKING THEIR CLAIM

Since the mid-1980s, citizens of Harkers Island have collected, published and sold their memories almost with a vengeance.

Harkers Island United Methodist Women compiled a cookbook back then, as churchwomen do, but this book also included pieces on island history. Old-timers, and some dingbatters, began talking of the old days, and drawing and photographing and writing. The pile of history grew like a shell mound. And each oral history interview, each personal memoir, each trip to the family Bible or hope chest opened a fountain of emotion.

Island native and writer Karen Willis Amspacher, a mother of two young children, guided publication of the cookbook. She saw something spiritual flow from the process of collecting memoirs. She says it was because people saw the profound change that was overwhelming the island.

"Until then, we never felt threatened," she said. "We saw a way of life disappearing. What I knew as a child was passing away. Our children will never know it firsthand."

The cookbook, "Island Born and Bred", is now in its seventh printing and has sold more than 20,000 copies. Between its recipes for cornmeal dumplings and conch stew, the

continued on page 12

In this case, Davis says, some members are dissatisfied with the rates they pay, others question how work is assigned among the nine employees. Others challenge the co-op's capital investments or call for the co-op to merge with neighboring Carteret-Craven EMC or sell out to Carolina Power and Light Company.

Other concerns stem from the co-op's size: "Little rumors get started on an island like this, and they spread fast and get big," said Davis. "By the time they get to us, they're way out of control. We urge people who have any concerns to bring them directly to the office."

Another problem is related to the island's limited economic opportunities. Many islanders envy the EMC's employees because of their steady, island-based jobs that include attractive benefits.

"This is a very small community, and our staff is very visible," Davis said. "All nine of us were raised here and have family connections. We all live and work and go to church with the people we serve every day. But it's hard to compare a lineman's job to any other job."

When rates come up, the EMC doesn't fare well in comparison with neighboring utilities. Carteret-Craven and CP&L both charge lower rates and offer various special discounts the co-op can't afford to match.

Davis says his EMC does its best to keep costs down and those efforts have kept rates at 9.8 cents per kilowatt hour since 1988. But rate hikes can't be avoided indefinitely, as the cost of providing basic services continues to rise. The co-op needed two new trucks a few years ago, and also bought an adjacent lot for storage of poles and equipment. Meanwhile, wholesale power costs have gone up.

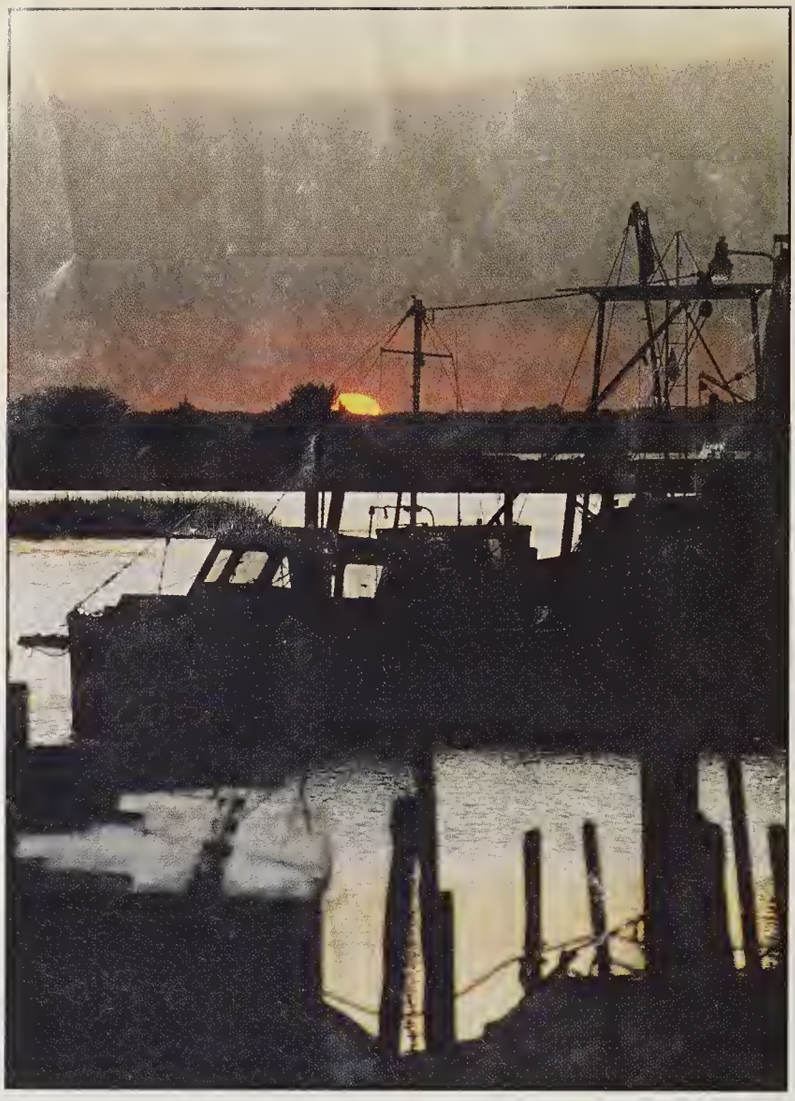
Yet, when service is rated, Davis believes the co-op can't be beat. Part of the reason is the dedicated employees who know the members and understand their needs.

The co-op is more than the island's electric utility. The fire and rescue service was organized through the co-op, as was the Water and Sanitary District. The EMC's staff also works for the water service's 800 customers, handling everything from clerical work to accounting to system maintenance.

Also, the EMC is a favorite stop for visitors, whether they are delivery people seeking an address, government agents, long-lost relatives or tourists.

One co-op member said she sees the EMC as part of the island traditions that need to be preserved.

"It's one of the few things left on Harkers Island that are still ours. And we want to hold on to all of them," Mary Sue Davis said.



Sunset at Harkers Point, seen from Refuge Harbor.

continued from page 11

pages of "Island Born and Bred" are filled with raw emotion.

Karen and her literary partner Joel Hancock had no choice but to collect and preserve more memories, as their forebears had preserved huckleberries and figs. They followed the maxim, "Our heritage is ours, and no one can claim that but us."

Since 1990, they have published 11 issues of "The Mailboat," a quarterly magazine of up to 36 pages devoted to history, illustration, recollections and heartfelt testimony from all the Down East villages of Carteret County. The partners have also produced two books of Christmas memories, a 142-page history of Harkers Island, a calendar, Joel Hancock's history of the local Mormons, three decoy festival guidebooks, and a full-scale drive to establish a regional decoy museum.

"These projects really brought to light what people were thinking," Karen Amspacher said. "They helped us realize that we have to find the strength to cope with change just as our ancestors did when they pulled up stakes at Shackleford and Core Banks and moved on. That's never easy, but we can do it to hold on to what we have."

For information about Harkers Island and "Down East" history and culture, contact Coastlore Trader, P.O. Box 3, Harkers Island, N.C. 28531. Phone (919) 728-4644.

CORE SOUND DECOY CARVERS GUILD

Like ducks take to water

The entire Harkers Island community seems to swell with pride during the annual Core Sound Decoy Festival, scheduled this year for Dec. 5 and 6.

It's a big deal. More than 4,000 people attended in 1991. About 80 carvers will be on hand, along with 40 other exhibits, carving, painting and judging the float of decoys, calling loons, showing retriever dogs, and other endeavors celebrating Down East life and heritage.

Decoy carving typifies the area's personality traits: respect for the water and wildlife; self-reliance, ingenuity and skill; and reverence for styles and lessons of past generations.

The Core Sound Decoy Carvers Guild has a mission even grander than the annual festival: a waterfowl museum and education center.

Negotiations and fundraising are well under way for the project. The Guild hopes to establish itself on Willow Pond, where it would complement the brand new Cape Lookout National Seashore visitors center at the island's eastern end.

The guild believes a museum and education center will enhance the island's economy and recognize the value of waterfowl and related heritage. It will also provide a central location for collections of decoys and bird carvings which have scattered throughout the region over the years.

For a free "decoy finder" map and information about the festival and the museum, contact Core Sound Decoy Carvers Guild at P.O. Box 308, Harkers Island, N.C. 28531. Phone: (919) 728-7316.

PLANNING THE AVA GARDNER MUSEUM ...
TRAGEDY IN CANDOR ...
A HISTORY OF NORTH CAROLINA'S AFRICAN-AMERICANS ...
1992 GIFT GUIDE

NINE COLLEGES LINKED TO GLOBAL "ELECTRONIC PATHWAY"

Nine North Carolina colleges and universities are now linked to global communications networks that provide them with "an electronic pathway to the world," according to officials of the schools.

By taking advantage of this link to the networks, students and teachers at the nine campuses are using their computers to look through vast amounts of information that is available to them only electronically. They're also able to work with colleagues at other universities without ever leaving their own campuses.

The institutions involved are Campbell University in Buies Creek, Catawba College in Salisbury, Chowan College in Murfreesboro, Elon College near Burlington, Lees-McRae in Banner Elk, Meredith College in Raleigh, Mount Olive College near Goldsboro, Queens College in Charlotte and Shaw University in Raleigh.

Elon instructor Matt Hartree says, "There's so much you can do with it. The network connection opens students' eyes to a world beyond a textbook."

Chowan's Phyllis Dewar, a chemistry teacher, says a co-worker has begun exchanging electronic mail with a colleague in Norway. She adds, "We're really happy to be on (the network). We're so isolated geographically, this is tremendous for us."

The network connection was established at the nine campuses by the Center for Communications at MCNC under a $134,793 grant from the National Science Foundation. Second year funding for the project could add another $43,000 to support the project, MCNC officials reported.

The Center for Communications' Joe Ragland, who helped connect the nine campuses, says any academic institution in the 1990s needs computer connections to global networks.

"Any college without that is isolated," he says.

In addition to the hardware and software required for the data connections, the Center for Communications staff is providing on-site training and technical workshops to help each campus take full advantage of the computer networks.

The Center for Communications, a division of MCNC in Research Triangle Park, manages the global communications network.

GUIDE HELPS CONSUMERS ASK KEY HEALTH QUESTIONS

The National Consumers League in Washington, D.C., has developed a brochure to help consumers take charge of their health.

The publication, "Questions to Ask: Taking Charge of Your Health," encourages consumers to ask the right questions in an effort to get the most out of today's complicated health care system.

Agency officials say consumers share the responsibility for good health with the health care profession, and they stand a better chance of getting first rate care if they ask the right questions.

The National Consumers League is a nonprofit organization that represents health care consumers.

To order the 10-page brochure, send $1 for postage and handling to 815 15th Street, N.W., #928-N, Washington, D.C. 20005.

"COOPERATIVE SPIRIT" AIDS LOUISIANA STORM VICTIMS

Carolina Electric Cooperatives responded with hard cash to help Louisiana cooperatives damaged by Hurricane Andrew at the end of August.

Soon after the North Carolina co-ops joined a massive statewide effort in sending trailer truckloads of relief supplies to Andrew's victims in south Florida, the same co-ops rallied to help collect $16,500 for sister co-ops in Louisiana.

Louisiana's southcentral territory was smacked by the storm Aug. 26, when winds of up to 150 miles per hour wrecked homes, businesses and the landscape. Electrical systems of seven co-ops suffered damage.

Because of their firsthand experience in similar disasters, electric co-ops from seven nearby states sent people, equipment and cash to help Louisiana co-ops restore electric service and safety to 155,000 consumer-members who were without power for extended periods.

The Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives reported damages in excess of $7 million to member systems, including battering of nearly 24,000 miles of electric power line. Hundreds of power poles snapped or fell down. Hundreds of miles of line were irreparably damaged.

Carolina Electric Cooperatives collectively sent $16,500 to sister co-ops in Louisiana.

Carolina Electric Cooperatives responded quickly.

The organization's board of directors, representing the state's 28 electric cooperatives, approved a $3,000 donation, beyond any funds contributed by individual co-ops. The check was issued to the Louisiana association to assist member co-ops in repairing the damage.

Likewise, consumer-members of individual North Carolina co-ops gave generously. Some examples are:

- Pee Dee EMC, Wadesboro, donated $200.
- Piedmont EMC, Hillsborough, saw its Roxboro district office approve a $500 gift from its Christmas fund.
- Randolph EMC, Asheboro, gave $9,693.
- Rutherford EMC, Morganton, gave $2,000.
- Tideland EMC, Pantego, gave $1,532.

"It is really gratifying to see the cooperative spirit in action," said Paul Wood, executive director of the Louisiana association.

Aid came from throughout the region, he said. Almost 700 line workers and 400 pieces of equipment from 42 electric co-ops and 16 electrical contractors helped the local co-ops restore their systems.

Power was restored to more than half the affected consumers within 48 hours, and 80 percent saw power return within 72 hours, the association reported.

NEW BOOK SURVEYS BLACK HISTORY IN NORTH CAROLINA

The first one-volume survey of black history in North Carolina is available from the state Division of Archives and History.

"A History of African-Americans in North Carolina" traces the story of black North Carolinians from colonial times through the civil rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

This study represents the most recent scholarship on the African-American experience in North Carolina. It is based on secondary literature and on original research using some primary sources.

Three North Carolina historians combined efforts to write the book. They are Jeffrey J. Crow, Ph.D., administrator of the Historical Publications Section of the Division of Archives and History; Paul D. Escott, Ph.D., a professor of history at Wake Forest University; and Flora J. Hatley, former black history coordinator for the Division of Archives and History, who is now an instructor at North Carolina Central University in Durham.

The 237-page volume explores such topics as black life and labor in North Carolina before the Civil War, blacks' attitudes toward slavery and slaveholders, and blacks' participation in the Revolution and in the politics of Reconstruction.

The softcover book features 90 pictures and illustrations, many published here for the first time. Also included is an appendix that identifies black legislators who served in the North Carolina General Assembly from 1868 through 1900.

The book sells for $10 each plus $2 for postage. Order from: Historical Publications Section (N), Division of Archives and History, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, N.C. 27601-2807.

REMEMBERING JOHNSTON COUNTY'S AVA GARDNER

Johnston County has never forgotten its most famous daughter, the late film star Ava Gardner, who often took time away from her career to visit friends and family in the Smithfield area.

Residents of the area are now making plans for converting Smithfield's old water plant into a permanent home for the Ava Gardner Museum and the Neuse Art Center.

The 7,500-square-foot plant on the Neuse River was taken out of service in the early 1960s after operating for about 50 years.

Plans call for it to house memorabilia from Gardner's career, as well as art exhibits and educational programs. Space would be set aside for a small theater to show Gardner's movies.

The original Ava Gardner museum was set up in the Brogden community in the boarding house her parents operated when she was young.

However, members of the museum committee moved the collection because of concern about its safety and security at the rural location. A small portion of it is temporarily on display in a downtown Smithfield storefront.

Materials in the museum, with an estimated value of $100,000, date back to Gardner's youth and trace her entire career. Most of the items were collected by the late Dr. Thomas Banks, a lifelong Gardner fan, who saved everything from newspaper clippings to private letters he had exchanged with the star.

Upon Banks' death, his widow turned the collection over to the museum committee, which includes various Gardner fans and local business leaders. Singer Lena Horne and syndicated columnist Liz Smith, who were friends of Gardner's, are honorary members of this committee.

Displayed in her brother-in-law's New York City store window, this Ava Gardner photo first attracted Hollywood's attention in 1939. (Courtesy of Ava Gardner Museum)

The committee is developing requests for foundation grants and federal funds while moving forward with other fund-raising programs.

A $150-per-person reception in New York City recently raised $10,000. The event was hosted by Lena Horne, Liz Smith, and actress Elaine Stritch.

The committee hopes to meet its fund-raising goal by the end of the year in order to begin construction early next year.

For more information about the project, write or call Ray Gibbs, executive director, Downtown Smithfield Development Corporation, P.O. Box 761, Smithfield, N.C. 27577. Phone: (919) 934-0887.

NC GIFT GUIDE SHOWCASES TAR HEEL PRODUCTS

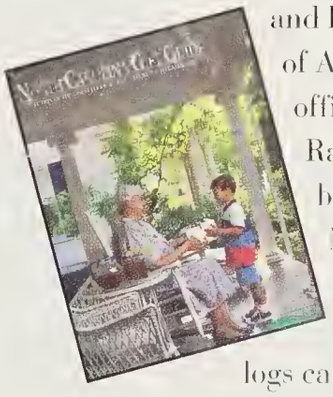
The 1992 North Carolina Gift Guide, featuring a wide variety of food and craft items from North Carolina manufacturers, is now available at various locations throughout the state and by mail.

Published annually by the state Department of Agriculture, the guide is a full-color catalog of home-grown foods and crafts from all areas of the state.

Catalog shoppers can choose from traditional gifts such as peanuts and hams to unusual items like Moravian cookies, railroad engineer's hats with the Goodness Grows in North Carolina emblem, laser-cut wooden ornaments and specialty vinegars.

"This new gift guide has something for everyone, and in a variety of price ranges," said Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Graham. "We're a diverse agricultural state, and this catalog represents that diversity with unique offerings."

The guide is available without charge at several locations, including the state-operated Farmers Markets in Raleigh, Asheville and Charlotte and Department of Agriculture offices in Raleigh, Elizabeth City and Morehead City. The new catalogs can also be found at chambers of commerce offices, state welcome centers and at many public libraries.



Copies are available by mail for a small fee to cover postage and handling. To order a copy, send $1 to N.C. Ag Promotions, P.O. Box 27647, Raleigh, N.C. 27611 and ask for the 1992 NC Gift Guide.

For more information about the guide, call Sarah Jenkins at (919) 733-7887.

TRAGEDY INSPIRES WARNING ON ELECTRIC SAFETY

A recent family tragedy inspired a Montgomery County woman to make a public appeal calling attention to the hazards of damaged electric cords.

Betty Sue Robinson of Candor made her emotional plea in a letter to Emmett S. Patterson, general manager of Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation, Wadesboro, shortly after her 4-year-old grandson was electrocuted, apparently while playing with a frayed electric cord.

Mrs. Robinson and the boy's family are both served by the co-op.

She asked the EMC to warn parents about the dangers their children can be exposed to if they play with electric cords or equipment. Patterson found the letter itself to be the most effective warning he could give to Pee Dee's 16,333 members. He published it in the EMC's September consumer newsletter. *(See box at right for the letter's complete text.)*

Dear Mr. Patterson:

My little 4-year-old grandson was electrocuted on July 8, 1992.

My daughter had spliced a cord to put on a fan in her children's room. She told the older boys not to play with it, because it was dangerous and they could be killed.

When she was busy doing things around the house the boys broke the cord. She took it away and set the fan aside. The baby boy somehow picked up the cord without her noticing him and carried it into his room.

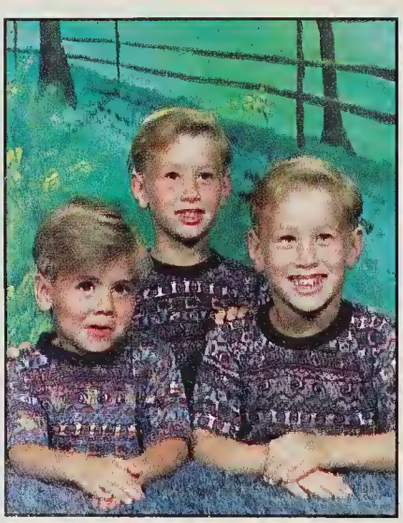
She put all the boys down for a nap, and she went about cooking supper. She went to get Derek up for supper and found him against the wall, and the spliced cord in his hand pulled apart, and the other part lying across his chest, still plugged into the wall, with electricity going into his little body.

This is a terrible tragic thing to happen to a small child. Just warn all parents if they have broken or frayed cords that are on appliances to please have them repaired by professionals or discard them immediately. Because as parents, we can't be careful enough.

My grandson can't be brought back, but if warning parents to be more careful can save just one child's life, then Derek will not have died in vain.

He was such a special little boy, and my family has suffered a terrible loss. We will always warn other people to be sure their home is safe.

Mrs. Betty S. Robinson
Candor



Derek VonCannon, left, with his brothers.

The grandson, Derek VonCannon, was found in cardiac arrest when emergency medical help arrived at the VonCannon home early in the evening on July 8, according to Randy Kearns, director of Montgomery County Emergency Medical Services. Kearns said electricity entered the boy's body near his hands and exited through his heart.

The boy was transported immediately to Montgomery Memorial Hospital, where staff tried unsuccessfully for more than an hour to resuscitate him, according to news reports.

The county sheriff's department reported that the boy's mother had spliced a curling iron's electrical cord to a fan's cord in order to operate the fan. The mother said she warned her children not to play with the fan, according to reports. But later in the day, Derek apparently touched the cord. Authorities found him in cardiac arrest and wrapped in the cord, which was plugged into a wall socket.

Derek was born in Moore County. He lived in Candor with his mother and his two brothers. His maternal grandmother lives in Candor and his paternal grandmother lives in nearby Norman. His father lives in Tennessee.

SUMMER RETREAT PREPARES EMCS' YOUNG AMBASSADORS

Eighteen high school students learned almost as much about electricity as they did about outdoor fun during the fourth annual Youth Energy Retreat, July 22 through 24, at the Betsy Jeff Penn 4-H Center near Reidsville.

The teenagers represented 11 Electric Membership Corporations (EMC) and will serve this year as liaisons between their cooperatives and various school and youth organizations in their communities.

The retreat is sponsored annually by Carolina Electric Cooperatives.

The youths learned about electrical safety and watched EMC linemen simulate a rescue atop an electric line pole.

They also participated in workshops on public speaking, which they will be asked to do regularly during

the coming year while serving as informal ambassadors representing their co-ops before student organizations and community groups.

"These kids are very sharp," said Lorrie Constantinos, director of member services for Carolina Electric Cooperatives, who coordinated the retreat. "They're attentive and energetic. Their co-ops will be proud to have them as representatives this year."

Staff members who assisted Constantinos in this year's training and recreational programs were Lois Goodwin of Carolina Electric Cooperatives; Roy Lowe of Central EMC, Sanford; Paula Ridick of Jones-Onslow EMC, Jacksonville, and her husband Jace; Dean Hudgins of Halifax EMC, Enfield; and junior advisors Chris Allen of Youngsville and David Williams of Wake Forest.

The Youth Energy Retreat is open to youths 13 to 15 years of age. For more information about plans for the 1993 retreat, contact your local EMC or write to Lois Goodwin, Carolina Electric Cooperatives, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

THE ROSTER

Attending this year's retreat were: Laura Laws of Lenoir (Blue Ridge EMC); Heather Lowe of Sanford (Central EMC); Jacob Black of Lexington (Davidson EMC); David Pavelsky and Gray Sykes, both of Tarboro (Edgecombe-Martin EMC); Mark Greene of Whitakers and Sara Hudgins of Enfield (Halifax EMC); Kim Bane of Hurbert and Kim Heath of Richlands (Jones-Onslow EMC); Daniel Cox of Polkton (Pee Dee EMC); Jason Nelson of Roxboro (Piedmont EMC); Stockton Butler and Bradley Tew of Dunn, Heather Jackson of Godwin and Jaclyn Spell of Autryville (South River EMC); Amy Tilton of Pinnacle (Surry-Yadkin EMC); and Bob Bartell of Durham and Amy Ellington of Henderson (Wake EMC).

Heather Jackson of Godwin is outfitted in lineman's equipment with help from Richard Petty; left, a Carolina Electric Cooperatives job training and safety specialist, and Richard Hairgrove, safety coordinator for Davidson EMC, Lexington.

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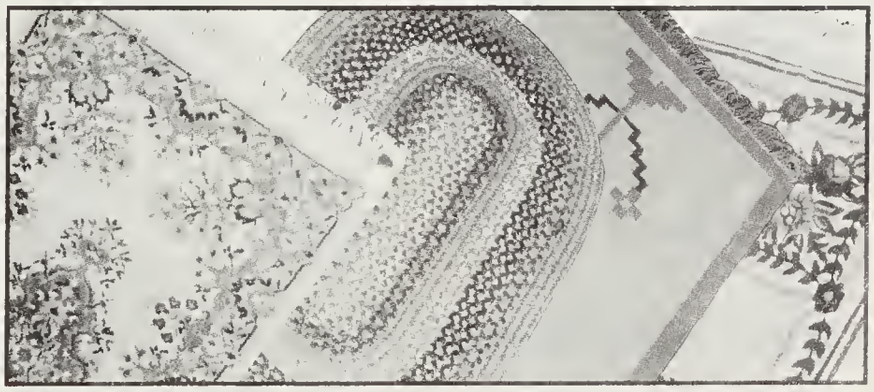

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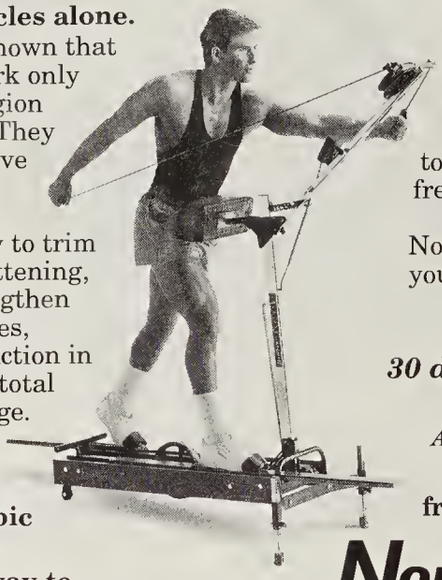

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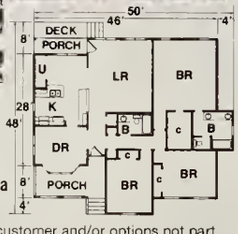

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Demonstrating energy efficiency at its best

Three new houses in North Carolina are playing a starring role in an experimental program that seeks to show energy efficiency at its best.

The "Exemplary Homes" project has put a spotlight on two single-family dwellings in Durham and a third in Carrboro. Watching them closely are officials of the North Carolina Alternative Energy Corporation (AEC), which is sponsoring the project with the help of several utilities, including Carolina Electric Cooperatives.

In a year's time, the specially designed houses will yield information about energy use which could help set standards for North Carolina home construction in the future.

Methods used in building the houses emphasized not only energy efficiency, but also comfort, durability, health and safety, and environmental sensitivity. After studying the results produced by continuous monitoring of each house, the AEC intends to publish guidelines for builders and trades people who want to build similar houses.

The house at Weatherhill Pointe in Carrboro is heated and cooled by an electric-powered system served by Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Hillsborough. Carolina Electric Cooperatives, the association of North Carolina's 28 EMCs, supplied the monitoring equipment and will collect data on the home's power use.

The other houses are at Greenbrier in Durham. They were scheduled for occupancy in mid-October and are supplied with electricity by Duke Power Company. One of them, co-sponsored by a coalition of natural gas utilities, will use a gas-powered heating and cooling system.

Frank Vigil, the AEC's project manager, said a lot of information already has been compiled regarding the practicality of installing some of the systems in the "Exemplary Homes."

—photo by Chip Henderson

This dwelling in Carrboro is part of a demonstration project sponsored by the utilities and the N.C. Alternative Energy Corp.

He pointed out that the project is not expected to produce data comparing energy efficiency in terms of the type of energy used.

"We'd have to monitor a hundred houses to come up with a comparative study," he said.

However, the experience gained in using certain materials, energy systems and building techniques is expected to produce information that will guide builders and trades people, architects, engineers, lenders, appraisers and consumers, Vigil said.

"We're also identifying the barriers involved in some of the construction methods. You can put all the insulation you want in a house, but if you can't get it in the right place, it doesn't do what it's supposed to do."

He said the AEC hopes to issue its first manual on construction techniques early in 1993, and plans to offer seminars for builders, trades people and others.

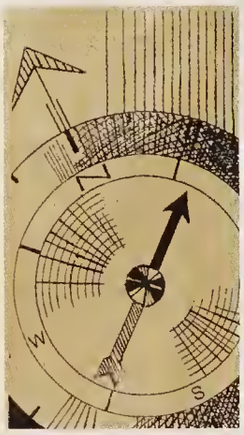
The program will produce valuable information about the cost of building such structures.

"When we looked around for bids to do a certain job," Vigil said, "all we could realistically get were close guesses. When we're through with the construction, we'll have a good idea of the actual cost of most of this work."

The project will also yield an "owners manual" that will be helpful to consumers who buy homes built with the techniques and systems used in the study.

For more information, contact the N.C. Alternative Energy Corporation, P.O. Box 12699, Research Triangle Park, N.C. 27709. Phone (919) 549-9046.

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE



HOLIDAY EVENTS IN DAVIDSON, PANTEGO, CONCORD, WINSTON-SALEM, RALEIGH, LUMBERTON, ELIZABETH CITY, HILLSBOROUGH, NEW BERN ...

LUNG ASSOCIATION GOLF PRIVILEGE

The Golf Privilege Card, which has offered golfers access to clubs throughout eastern North Carolina for the past nine years, has been expanded to cover clubs across the state.

The $35 card, a fund-raising program of the American Lung Association of North Carolina, can now be used at 140 clubs. When golfers display the card at these clubs, they can play with a waiver of greens fees.

A free brochure lists the courses, available play dates, the participating clubs, and the preferred tee times.

For a copy of the brochure or to purchase a card, contact your nearest American Lung Association of North Carolina office. For more information, call Sadie M. Daughety at the eastern regional office: P.O. Box 1407, Greenville, N.C. 27835. Phone: (919) 752-5093.

SCHOOL DAYS CELEBRATED IN STANLY COUNTY EXHIBIT

An exhibition on the evolution of education in Stanly County will be open through May at the Snuggs House in Albemarle.

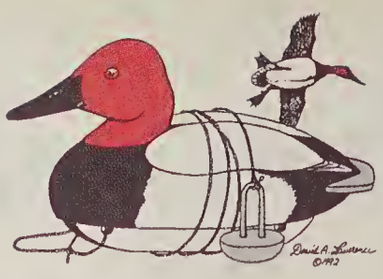
The exhibit was mounted by the Museum Committee of the Albemarle-Stanly County Historic Preservation Commission.

Photo documentation, "lunch and recess" and penmanship will be featured. Artifacts date from the mid 1800s to 1950. A turn-of-the-century classroom will be the focal point of the exhibit.

The show is free of charge to individuals and groups. Groups are asked to call in advance for an appointment.

Hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The Snuggs House is closed from 12 noon until 1 p.m. each day for lunch.

For an appointment or more information, contact Penny King, curator, Albemarle-Stanly County Historic Preservation, 112 North Third Street, Albemarle, N.C. 28001. Phone: (919) 983-7316.



FESTIVAL TO PRESENT 85 DECOY CARVERS

The Fifth Annual Core Sound Decoy Festival, North Carolina's largest gathering of carvers and collectors, is scheduled for Dec. 5 and 6. The festival features over 85 carvers with many different styles represented.

Other events include a children's carving and painting workshop, carving competitions, painting contests, goose-calling demonstrations, and the Third Annual Loon-calling Contest.

Wildlife artists will exhibit their watercolor, acrylic, and oil paintings.

An auction Saturday night will include both art work and wood carvings.

Representatives of the North Carolina Coastal Federation and other agencies will be on hand to discuss conservation efforts to protect wildlife habitat in the area. The North Carolina Maritime Museum and other preservation groups will share information on their efforts to record and preserve the role waterfowl has played in the history of North Carolina's coast.

For more information on the festival, contact Core Sound Decoy Festival, P.O. Box 308, Harkers Island, N.C. 28531. Phone: (919) 728-7316.

See related item, page 12.

POTTERS MARKET SET IN MARION

The Appalachian Potters Market in Marion will sponsor a show and sale of handcrafted clay works Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at McDowell High School commons area.

The admission for the event is $1, with no admission charged for those 16 and under.

For more information, contact the Appalachian Potters Market, McDowell Arts and Crafts Association, P.O. Box 1387, Marion, N.C. 28752. Phone: (704) 652-8610.

SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT AT ART GALLERY

An exhibit, "Seeds of Change," from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, will be at the Greensboro Civic Cultural Center and Festival Place, Dec. 6 through Jan. 30.

The exhibit, sponsored by the Guilford Native Art Gallery, depicts Christopher Columbus' initial encounter with the New World.

For more information, write or call the Guilford Native Art Gallery, 200 N. Davie St., Greensboro, N.C. 27401. Phone: (919) 273-6605.

ETCHINGS OF HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

Charlotte's Mint Museum of Art is exhibiting 27 Louis Orr etchings of historic North Carolina architecture on the second level of NationsBank's Founders Hall.

The show is part of a salute to the corporate center's Oct. 24 opening.

Louis Orr (1879-1966), who is regarded as the greatest etcher of his time, was a draftsman of impeccable fidelity to detail. He was the first living artist to have a work accepted for the collection of the Louvre Museum. His North Carolina series of etchings is available for exhibit at museums, colleges and historic sites in North Carolina.

For more information on this and other exhibitions available for loan, contact the Mint Museum of Art, 2730 Randolph Road, Charlotte, N.C. 2820. (704) 337-2000.

EXHIBIT OF SOUP TUREENS AND UTENSILS

A selection of 100 tureens, soup plates, ladles and covered broth bowls from the Campbell Museum Collection will be featured in an exhibit at Charlotte's Mint Museum of Art, Nov. 7 through Jan. 3.

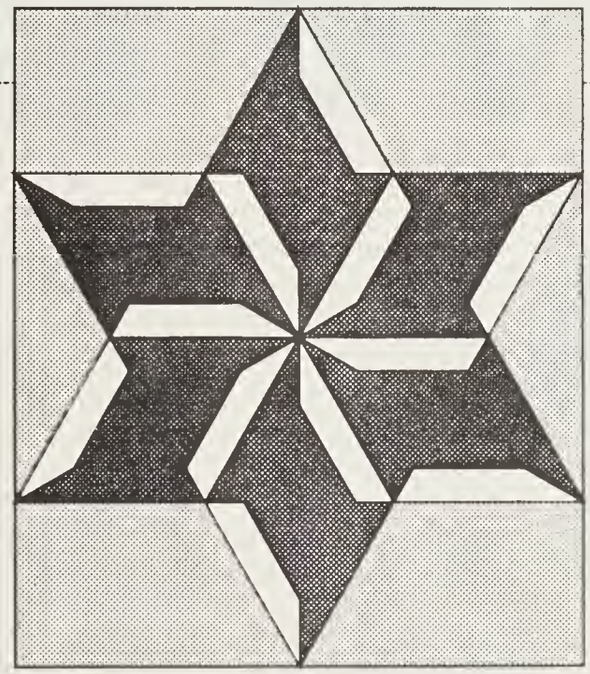
Regal soup tureens at the Mint Museum, Charlotte

Tureens, deep covered dishes for serving soup, stew or sauce, are round or oval and usually sit on a plate or stand. As they became fashionable, the affluent made them status symbols and objects of elaborate decoration.

One of the rarest and most unusual objects in the exhibition is a silver tureen ship made for Catherine the Great of Russia. Other tureens once graced the tables of Empress Elizabeth I, Czars Nicholas I and Alexander II, King Louis XV, King George III and President Abraham Lincoln.

The Campbell Museum in Camden, N.J., which was established by the Campbell Soup Company, houses a collection of more than 400 tureens and related objects.

For more information, write or call the Mint Museum at 2730 Randolph Road, Charlotte, N.C. 28207. Phone: (704) 337-2000.



Lap Quilting

with Georgia Bonesteel

CC Closed Captioned for the Hearing Impaired

New Season!
starts Dec. 6
Sundays at 2:30 PM

Underwriting funds provided by

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Communities across North Carolina will host various holiday season events in the weeks ahead. Some of them are described in this special section.

ELIZABETH CITY

The 15th Annual Mistletoe Show and Sale is scheduled for Nov. 13 to 15 at the Knobbs Creek Recreation Center in Elizabeth City.

The show, sponsored by the Elizabeth City Junior Woman's Club, will feature 70 booths offering various craft items, including dolls, ornaments, wood items, cross-stitch, ceramics, stained glass, paintings and Christmas decorations. All crafts are made by local and regional craftsmen.

Santa Claus will arrive on Saturday and door prizes will be awarded throughout the three-day event. Meals and snacks will be served daily by the women of Ramoth Gilead Baptist Church.

Hours are: Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. Admission fees are: ages 10-18, $2; senior citizens, $1; children under 10, free.

For more information, contact Jan Berry, 2096 Nixonton Road, Elizabeth City, N.C. 27909. Phone: (919) 330-4661.

HISTORIC DAVIDSON

Get set for strolling carolers, horse drawn carriages and a Main Street alive with the sights and sounds of Christmas in Davidson Dec. 2 through 4 from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

It's all part of the fourth annual Christmas in Historic Davidson celebration, which is coordinated by the Davidson Downtown Organization.

In addition, the North Mecklenburg YMCA has scheduled a 5K "Jingle Bell Run" for the morning of Dec. 5. The annual Christmas Parade follows at 1 p.m.

For more information, contact Irene Blackwell, chairman, Christmas in Davidson Committee, P.O. Box 332, Davidson, N.C. 28036. Phone: (704) 892-4440.

BEAUFORT COUNTY

Bay Tree Herbs and Flowers in Beaufort County will host its Third Annual Christmas Open House over the Thanksgiving weekend. Nov. 27 through 29.

The open house is scheduled for Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

For more information, write to Bay Tree Herbs and Flowers at Route 1, Box 82, Pantego, N.C. 27860. Phone: (919) 935-5267.

ROBESON COUNTY

The Seventh Annual Festival of Trees, a fund-raiser for Hospice of Robeson County, is scheduled for Dec. 6 through Dec. 9 at the Lifestyle Fitness Center in Lumberton.

Festival of Trees allows individuals, businesses and civic groups to sponsor a tree to be decorated at the festival site. Four categories of sponsorship are available for those giving money, based on the size of the contribution. A fifth category is available for individuals who volunteer to decorate the trees.

The event will offer 25 beautifully decorated trees, live music and craft booths.

Admission is $3 for adults, $2 for children and senior citizens, and free for children under 12.

Hospice of Robeson County is a non-profit organization that depends on donations and volunteer support from the community to help meet the needs of terminally ill patients and their families.

For more information contact, Ann McLean, P.O. Box 1408, Lumberton, N.C. 28359. Phone: (919) 671-5577.

OLD SALEM

Salem Christmas, an annual event to mark the holidays as they were celebrated by the Moravians more than two centuries ago, is planned for Dec. 19 from 1 to 7 p.m. in Winston-Salem.

Costumed guides will recount stories of holidays long past, while they lead you through a

tour of nine restored buildings in Old Salem. Each building will be decorated in the Moravian tradition, with simple greenery, decorated pyramids and illuminations.

Other scheduled activities include music, a slide-tape program, longrifle firing demonstrations, choir and organ music, a demonstration on how to make Moravian spice cookies, and a program on Moravian Christmas traditions.

Tickets to Salem Christmas, which go on sale after Nov. 15, are $12 for adults and $6 for children. To purchase tickets or for more information, call Jackie Beck at the Old Salem Visitor Center, (919) 721-7352. Or write to Salem Christmas, Box F, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27108.

HILLSBOROUGH

The Sixth Annual Historic Hillsborough Christmas Candlelight Tour is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 6 from 1 to 7 p.m.

The event will celebrate the town's 238-year history with tours of various homes, inns, churches and public buildings, which will be brightly decorated for the holiday season.

For more information, contact Fran Phelan, Hillsborough Area Chamber of Commerce, (919) 732-8156.

NEW BERN

Enjoy the spirit of Christmas amid the elegance of Tryon Palace in New Bern, where fresh fruits and fragrant greenery will adorn the walls.

In addition, festive foods will recall the "very grand and noble Entertainment and Ball" given by Governor William Tryon to celebrate the grand opening of the palace in December 1770.

Costumed hosts will lead you through a tour of rooms representing seven historic sites, including the palace, the East Wing, the Stanly House and New Bern Academy.

Evening candlelight tours of these sites are also available.

Daytime Christmas tours led by costumed hosts will be offered Dec. 9 through 22 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday tours are scheduled from 1:30 to 4 p.m. The candlelight tours are planned for Dec. 10 through 12 and Dec. 17 through 19 from 5 to 9 p.m.

For information and reservations, contact Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens, P.O. Box 1007, New Bern, N.C. 28563. Phone: (919) 638-1560.

CONCORD

The 64th Annual Christmastown Express Parade, featuring about 150 units, is scheduled in Concord for Nov. 21 at 3 p.m. The parade, which will showcase floats, bands, beauty queens and clowns, is sponsored by the Concord-Cabarrus County Chamber of Commerce and Cabarrus-Stanly Credit Bureau.

For more information, contact the chamber at P.O. Box 1029, Concord, N.C. 28026. Phone: (704) 782-4111.

RALEIGH

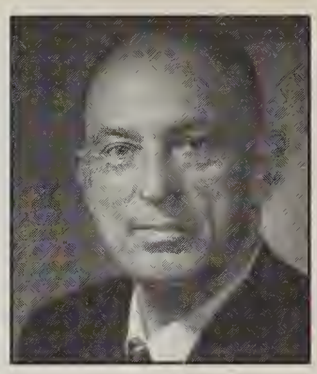
Holidays and history mix together on Saturdays at the Museum of History in downtown Raleigh through Nov. 28.

Each Saturday, "Christmas Past and Present" offers special shows in the museum's auditorium, displays in the lobby, and gifts with a touch of history in the Museum Shop.

The Museum Shop is open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Vendors will be in the lobby from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For information and a complete schedule, contact the Museum of History, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, N.C. 27611. Phone: (919) 733-3076.

Strong managers shaped NRECA's image and personality



Clyde T. Ellis, the first general manager of NRECA, was a tireless fighter.

BY J.C. BROWN
RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS SERVICE

If the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's democratically elected boards gave the organization its character, the general managers shaped its image and personality.

All were strong leaders who enjoyed personal popularity but they never exhibited any inclination to establish an autocracy.

The first manager was Clyde T. Ellis, a former Arkansas congressman, who had written that state's rural electrification act. The early NRECA staff consisted of Ellis, a secretary-treasurer, an acting director of insurance and four secretaries. The fledgling association had two offices in northwest Washington.

Ellis was a firebrand, a militant and a captivating speaker who was never happier than when facing down the enemy—usually the investor-owned power companies, who more than once threatened him with a lawsuit. His response was to come up with more evidence of power company wrongdoing, to prove his case.

Typical of Ellis's style was a column he wrote for the NRECA Bulletin: "God grant that the day comes when cooperatives will be able to generate and transmit their own power, when they can be able to rid themselves from the poisonous fangs of the greedy power monopoly."

In January 1944, Ellis wrote a sad letter to the membership, asking for a leave of absence. As much as he hated it, he felt that having voted to create the military draft, he had to join the troops. Anybody who knew Ellis would take that regret with a grain of salt. There was no way Ellis was going to stay at home when there was a fight going on.

He took a commission with the Navy and commanded an Armed Guard unit, seeing extremely hazardous duty in the North Atlantic.

Ellis always wanted to be where the action was. He led NRECA in the great public power fights of the 1940s and 1950s. The struggle was not just to get the dams built but to establish federal power marketing agencies that could negotiate transmission contracts with existing utilities or, failing that, build federal facilities to get power to the co-ops and other preference customers.

When Ellis retired in September 1967, there had been considerable turmoil within NRECA. Ellis had been weakened by a stroke and heart attack, and he was bruised from an ill-fated attempt to provide financing for the co-ops through legislation that would have created a bank similar to the Farm Credit System.

The board named Robert D. Partridge to follow Ellis.

Partridge had joined NRECA in 1961 as an economist, after holding that job at the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). He soon took over as senior legislative representative. Later he became executive assistant to Ellis.

A veteran of World War II and the Korean War, he was a tireless and patient worker.

By the time he became general manager, Partridge had also become a brigadier general in the Army Reserve, and later made major general.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association turned 50 earlier this year. J.C. Brown, who writes about NRECA's history in this recurring series, is a former editor of Carolina Country *and a former manager of the North Carolina statewide organization of electric co-ops. The Waynesville native is manager of association publications for NRECA.*

Partridge was a resource to his staff beyond providing direction. He knew a lot and he had a lot of contacts. With the help of his mentor, Dick Dell, who later became his director of government relations, Partridge established coalitions with labor and other groups that provided the edge in close congressional battles.

Ellis was unrelenting in his condemnation of power companies. But he also was an ideal peacemaker. He could sit without acrimony with his opponents yet never give an inch. He always dealt with them from a position of strength, and he felt that when the opportunity presented itself the investor-owned companies again would move forcefully to take over rural electric systems.

Partridge didn't have an easy time. During the struggle to restore the REA program that Nixon had tried to kill, an influential group among the cooperatives wanted NRECA to accept the Nixon substitute.

I was manager of the statewide association of rural electric cooperatives in North Carolina in the winter of 1973. A group of my colleagues years earlier had formed the Rural Electric Statewide Managers Association. We gathered in NRECA's board room to plan legislative strategy. During the meeting, Partridge was called to the office of House Speaker Carl Albert.

He returned to find a debate in progress, as members of the group considered whether they would work on behalf of the NRECA position. Partridge listened briefly and then angrily chastised us. We rallied around him, and I believe all of the statewide associations eventually supported the NRECA position, which later prevailed in Congress.

Bob Bergland, left, NRECA's current general manager, succeeded Bob Partridge, right, in 1984. A former congressman, Bergland served as Secretary of Agriculture in the Carter administration.

Partridge managed to weather other major internal crises before retiring in 1984.

His successor was Bob Bergland, one of three members of the U.S. House of Representatives who had engineered the landmark 1973 financing legislation. It established a 5 percent insured loan program intended primarily for the use of rural electric distribution cooperatives, and a guaranteed loan program mainly to accommodate the power supply co-ops' enormous need for capital.

Bergland is a masterful speaker, combining a showman's timing with a knack for explaining matters in terms his audiences can understand. He refuses to use a written text but somehow manages to make all his key points. He also knows when to quit.

He shares with Ellis and Partridge an appreciation and respect for his staff, although each used staff in somewhat different ways.

Keeping NRECA alive and successful during the Reagan administration has been Bergland's most obvious success. Every year, he was faced with a hostile REA administrator and federal budget proposals that were woefully inadequate, and eventually zero. The fact that he had served with many key members of Congress who have confidence in him proved to be of immeasurable value to Bergland, just as it was to Ellis.

A less obvious mark of his leadership is the courage Bergland shows in guiding the membership to explore new ideas, including the alternatives to the REA program. Another such mark is his willingness and skill in leading the members back when the going gets too risky.

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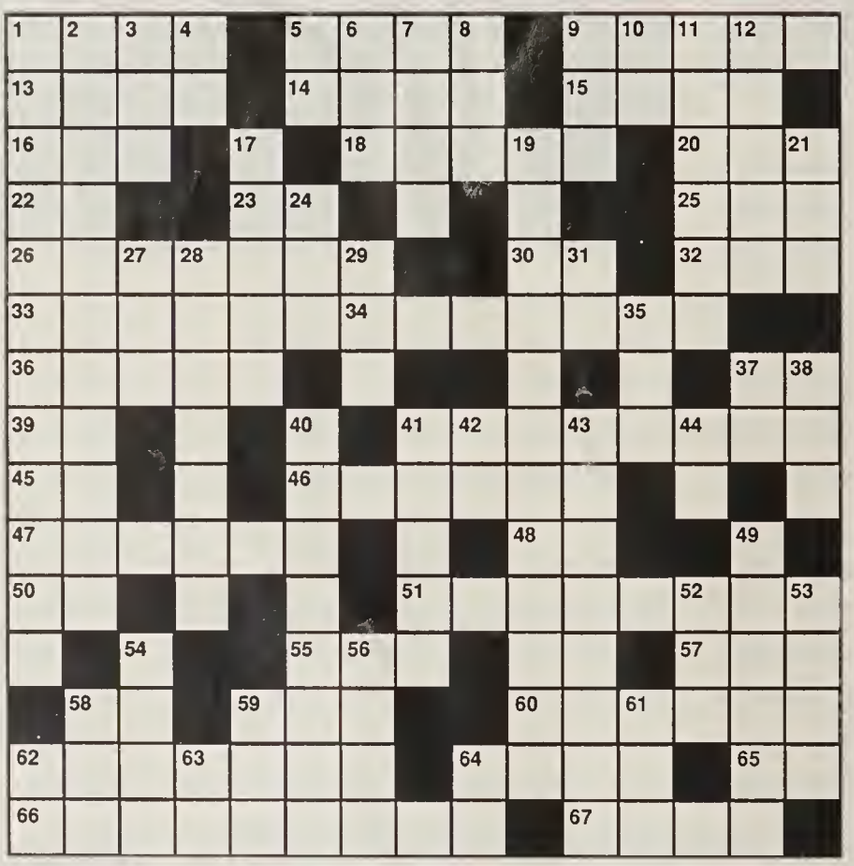
Rural Electric News Service

CROSSWIRES

By Michael Hedges

Solution on page 27.



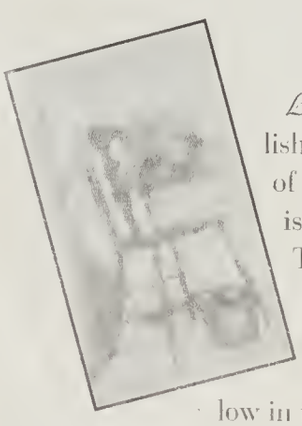
ACROSS

1. small amount
5. hot flow
9. 100,000 BTUs
13. lawman from Tombstone
14. soon, presently
15. wine lover ----phile.
16. CIA predecessor
18. NRECA pioneer's first name
20. time of day near Atlantic
22. highway abbrev.
23. cornbelt state, abbrev.
25. acronym for power association
26. Chinese root
30. a gold rush state, abbrev.
32. measure of what we make
33. likeness
34. early REA head
36. mother of pearl
37. direction
39. alternative
41. British wallet
45. abbrev. for smallest one
46. English dance, U.S. cat
47. small horse farm
48. Yankee state, abbrev.
50. momentarily desirable
51. tree enemy
55. when we are expected to arrive
57. Spanish exclamation
58. Massachusetts school, initials
59. consumed
60. Greek letter
62. home of the Braves
64. small piece of electric information
65. in in French
66. smaller than small
67. Yeats' home, in his tongue

DOWN

1. Rural electric pioneer, first and last
2. reggae religious observer
3. art or skill in Latin
4. British legislator, abbrev.
5. one to follow so.
6. Mandela heads
7. electric measure
8. this, that or the other
9. one of ten
10. male
11. electricity is one form
12. Indian hot corner MVP, 1953
17. servant
19. in an exciting fashion
21. draw from, especially suds
24. whichever
27. dominates Superbowl
28. Desert wind
29. Persian Gulf cooperative
31. Douglas did to Tyson
35. Matt and Chester's pal Adams
37. Hitler's police
38. boil
40. cherub, liqueur
41. association
42. Northwest state, abbrev.
43. better than a guess
44. indefinite article
49. famous pond
52. cry
53. take away
54. light or flower
56. group with common goal
58. heat measurement
59. small but sociable insect
61. the sea in French
62. in the capacity of
63. help for addicts
64. preceding first Christmas

A Taste of Light Living



Light Living, the cookbook published by the Women's Committee of Carolina Electric Cooperatives is available for Christmas gifts. The recipe at right is a sample of the recipes in the cookbook. Hot Cranberry Cheer makes a great holiday drink and is low in fat and calories.

To order, send check or money order for $12.95 per copy, (includes postage and handling) and mail to: Women's Committee Cookbook, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

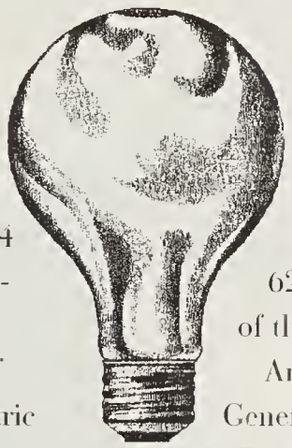
Hot Cranberry Cheer

1½ quart reduced calorie cranberry juice
2 quarts unsweetened apple juice
1½ teaspoons cloves
½ cup light brown sugar
¼ teaspoon salt
4 cinnamon sticks

Put juices, sugar and salt in coffee percolator. Put cinnamon sticks and cloves in basket of percolator. Juices will brew through spices as beverage perks. Note: All ingredients can be heated slowly in large pot and simmered about 2 hours. May be served hot or cold. Makes 8-10 servings.

Per recipe: 154 calories; 1% fat; 1 g fat; 65 mg sodium

Which light is right?



If you have about 32 light sockets in your home, then you're average. That translates into 2.94 billion light sockets in households throughout the United States. You're also average if about 10 percent of the electric bill goes for lighting.

Making an effort to save energy through more efficient lighting can help in two ways—you'll reduce your monthly electric bill and you'll also help the environment.

Here are three ways to save:

1. Use lower wattage lamps for decorative or accent lighting, but don't skimp on lighting for eye-intensive tasks like reading.

2. Remember to turn off lights that are not being used.

3. Use more energy-efficient lighting. What lighting fixtures and lamps are the most energy-efficient? Fixtures and lamps vary in how efficiently they provide light. Fluorescent lamps are energy savers because they produce more light per watt of electricity consumed compared to incandescent lamps.

The introduction of compact fluorescent lighting in the 1980s revolutionized energy-efficient lighting. These fluorescent bulbs with screw-in bases can be used instead of incandescent bulbs. They cost more but they save in the long run because they use one-quarter to one-third less electricity and last 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Making the switch can cut your energy use by 62 to 75 percent over the life of the lamp.

An example of this product is General Electric's Compax Light Bulb, which has a 3.1-inch diameter bulb similar in shape to an incandescent bulb. A 15-watt Compax lamp is designed to replace an ordinary incandescent bulb of 40 or 60 watts. At eight cents per kilowatt-hour, the lamp saves $32.40 over its 9,000-hour life and retails for $13 to $15.

Environmental savings are just as dramatic. A single 18-watt compact fluorescent light used in place of a 75-watt incandescent light bulb will save 570 kwh over its lifetime. If your electricity is produced from a coal-fired power plant, that means the plant will burn 500 fewer pounds of coal. Burning that amount of coal releases 1,300 pounds of carbon dioxide and 20 pounds of sulfur dioxide.

When purchasing incandescent light fixtures, look for lamps with 3-way switches, allowing you to control the light level to fit your needs. Install solid-state dimmers on wall switches for incandescent lights. They make it easy to reduce light levels and save energy.

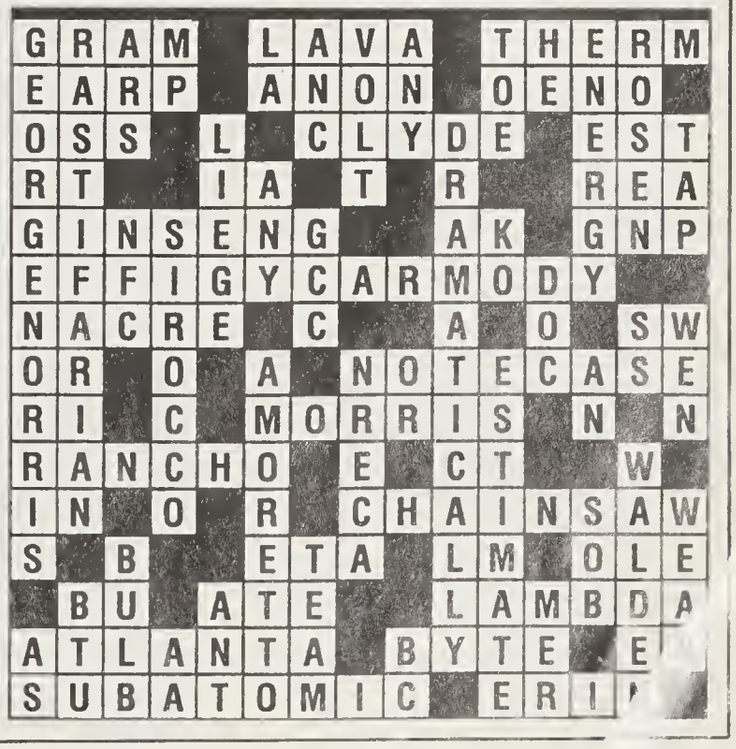
How can you use light bulbs more efficiently? When shopping for bulbs, check the watts and lumens listed on the package. The higher the wattage, the more energy the bulb uses. The higher the lumens, the brighter the light. Your best energy bet is the bulb that gives you the most lumens for the least watts.

Use 3-way bulbs and keep them on lower settings when bright light isn't needed. In general, high wattage bulbs are more energy efficient and produce more light per watt than smaller bulbs.

When choosing bulbs, remember that six 25-watt bulbs give the same amount of light as a 100-watt bulb.

Keep in mind that long-life incandescent bulbs are less efficient than standard bulbs of this kind. But they are convenient in locations where it is difficult to change the bulb.

Solution to CROSSWIRES *on page 26.*



DO YOUR OWN THING

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS FOR YOUR LAWN.

Why not adorn your lawn with these easy-to-assemble displays to give your yard a touch of an old-fashioned Christmas.

All the posters are printed in long-lasting colors just like billboards. Adhere the color posters to exterior grade plywood with waterproof or resin-based glue and saw them out. Just follow the dotted lines.

Prop the displays up with wooden stakes, dramatize them with a small spotlight and you'll have the cheeriest house on the block.

The "LITTLE DRUMMER BOY," poster #509, captures the sweet quality of the "Little Drummer Boy" carol. His charming face reflects the innocence of a child who comes to the stable bearing the only gift he can afford--the music of his drum. The "Little Drummer Boy" measures 42 inches by 58 inches. Its price is $15.

Come out of hibernation and welcome the holiday season this year with the "CHRISTMAS BEARS," poster #808. Dressed in their finest red and green garments and carrying brightly wrapped packages, they wear bright smiles that reflect the joy of the season. They measure 35 inches by 45 inches. The "CHRISTMAS BEARS" pattern is $10.

One of the real joys of Christmas has always been the tradition of caroling. When we think of carolers, we often think of delightful strolling singers from Merry Old England. The "CAROLERS," poster #510, measures about 35 inches by 52 inches. The cost is $15.

The "SANTA DISPLAY," poster #C20, features Mr. Santa, Mrs. Santa, the sleigh and eight reindeer. It will make any location a bright spot in the neighborhood while it helps spread the Christmas spirit. Mr. and Mrs. Santa are 6 feet tall and the deer and sleigh are life-size. The display costs $48.

Also available is our PATTERNS FOR BETTER LIVING catalog, picturing over 700 woodworking and handicraft projects. It's $3.95.

To order, send your check or money order in the appropriate amount to Steve Ellington, c/o *Carolina Country*, P.O. Box 2383, Van Nuys, Calif. 91409-2383. All prices include postage and handling.

MINISTRY CHRISTMAS CARDS FEATURE DAVID DOSS WATERCOLOR

An original watercolor by North Carolina artist David E. Doss is featured on a 1992 Christmas card for Crisis Control Ministry in Winston-Salem.

The painting, "Gemeinhaus Window," depicts an exterior scene at an historic Moravian church in the community of Bethabara.

Doss, a native of Winston-Salem, is a self-taught realist who began painting at the age of 12. Doss works primarily with watercolors and his work reflects his love of the rural countryside.

Proceeds from the sale of the cards will benefit Crisis Control Ministry, which provides food, clothing and financial aid for people in crisis. The ministry serves about 42,000 individuals and families annually. It is supported entirely by contributions from individuals, churches, foundations and corporations.

The cards, which are available in packs of 12 for $10, will be sold through various retail outlets in the Forsyth County area. For more information, write or call Crisis Control Ministry, 200 E. Tenth St., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101. Phone: (919) 724-7453.

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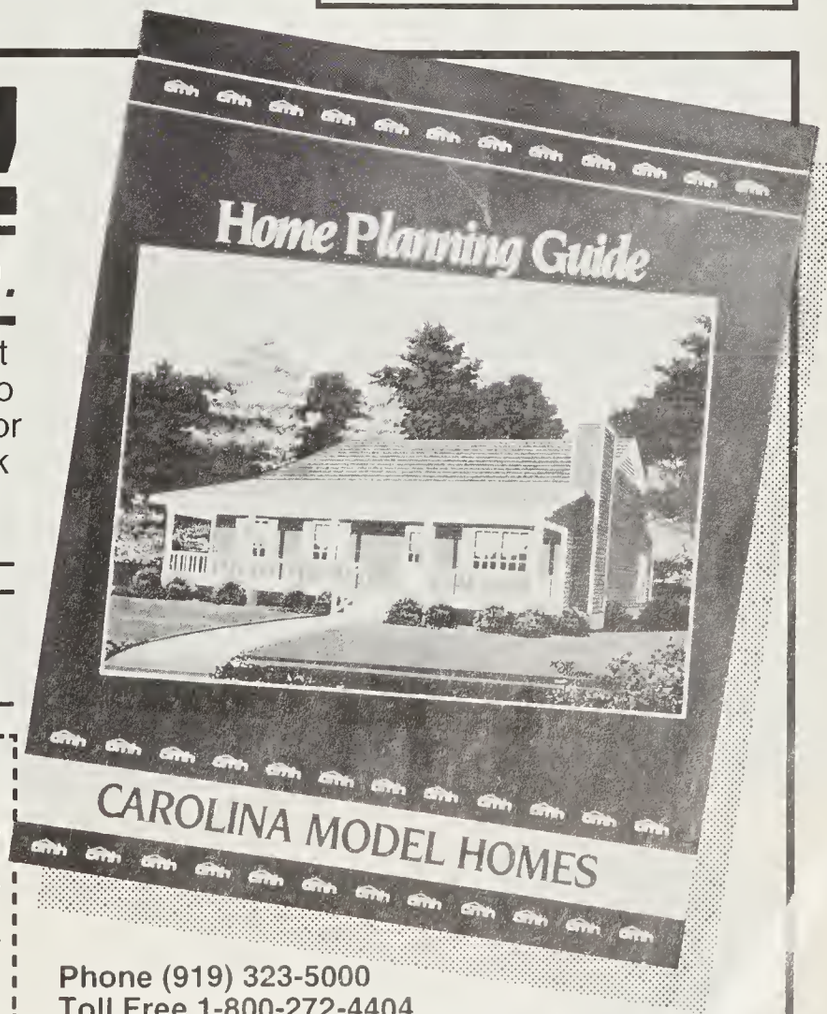

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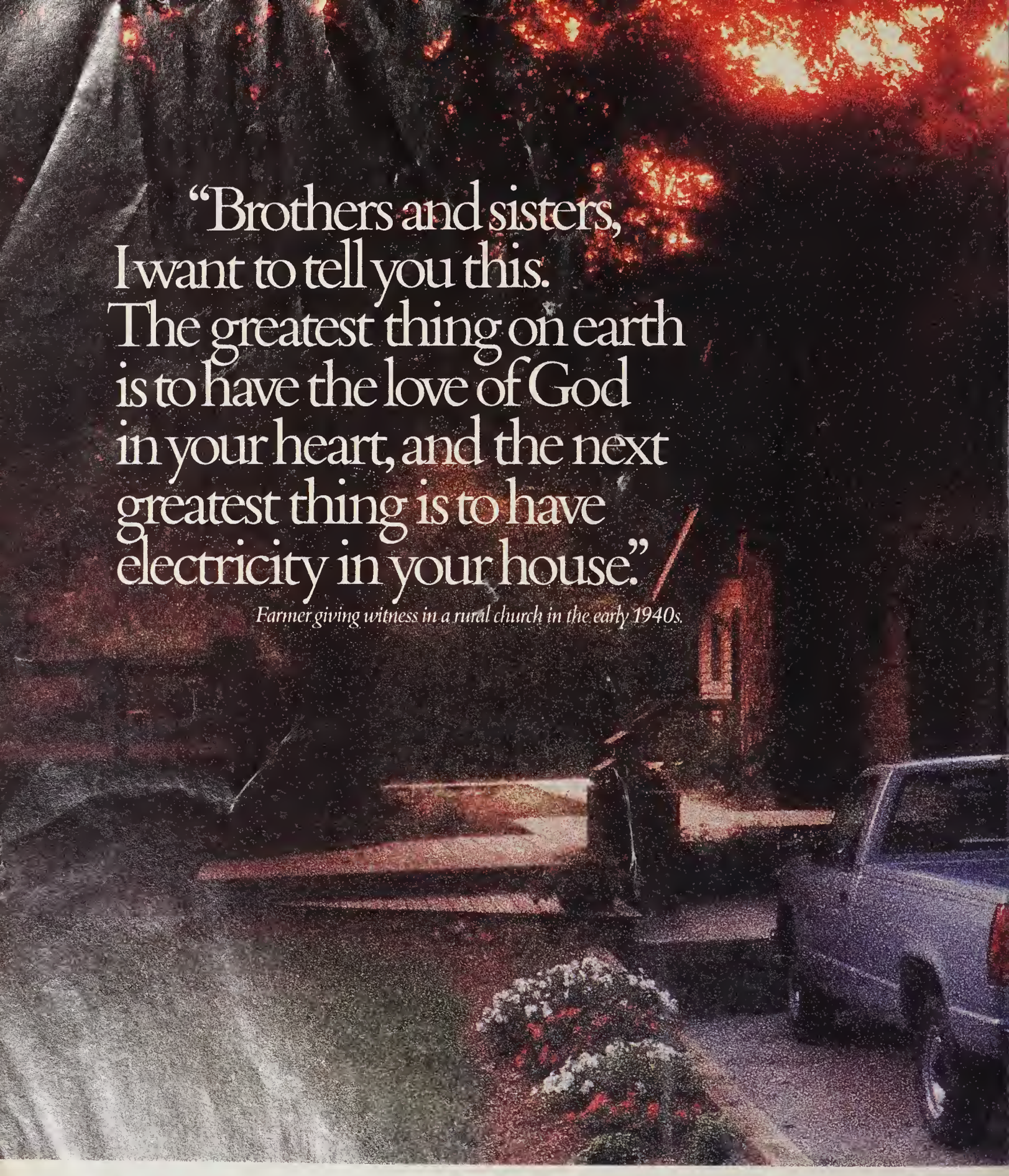

Here's to all the men and women who helped bring electricity to ru

North Carolina. Through the power of cooperation, they broke a cycle of lab

that had been handed down from generation to generation because there was

tricity. Today, we have a new challenge: to meet the energy needs of a growing population. We

do it. And we can do it with responsible use of our resources. But we're going to need that

e spirit of cooperation that helped turn on the lights over 50 years ago.

EMC

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HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE

BY HANK SMITH

ADVICE FOR COOL WEATHER WORK.

Many gardening activities slow because of the cooler weather. But now's a good time to catch up on neglected plant maintenance.

CATCH UP ON MAINTENANCE

Remove dead wood from diseased or damaged shrubs, trees, and vines. Clean and sharpen garden tools for use in pruning later on, and for use in spring planting. Sharpen lawnmower blades. Use sandpaper to remove rust from tools, and repair or replace leaking garden hoses.

As days shorten, there's still time to plant next spring's flower bulbs that are not yet in the ground. Prepare established plants to enter winter by giving them a good heavy mulch.

Cooler weather provides an ideal time for grubbing out stumps. This chore is made easier if the ground has been softened by a soaking rain.

CARE FOR YOUR COMPOST

Check the compost pile and add moisture if needed. Turn the composting materials at regular intervals, about every two weeks, to hasten decomposition. Working nitrogen fertilizer into the compost causes it to break down faster. Fertilizer is best scattered across a 6- to 8-inch deep layer of compost. Place another layer of compost over the fertilizer, and scatter fertilizer over this layer. Continue until all compost is exposed to fertilizer.

PUT WINTER TO WORK

Plow your vegetable garden and annual flower beds. Let them lie fallow over winter.

Don't smooth the soil down after plowing—let it lie rough for maximum exposure. Winter freezes will kill many insects and their larvae, putting the soil in good shape for spring planting.

HELP PLANTS ESCAPE DAMAGE

When helping plants to escape the damage of freezing temperatures, keep in mind that a healthy well-fed plant will undergo less cold damage than a plant which is under-fed and rundown.

Plants should enter winter free of diseases and nematode damage. Be certain that plants are not fertilized too late in the season. This often forces tender growth that is subject to winter kill.

Never fertilize with quickly available nitrogen in late summer. Select varieties that are hardy in your area. Protect plants from prevailing cold winds. A fence or tall evergreen hedge of trees or shrubs gives good protection.

During severe freezes, plants that freeze slowly and thaw slowly will be damaged the least. The south side of a building, with no shade, is the poorest location for tender plants.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA

If possible, purchase poinsettias on a day of moderate temperatures. Take the plant home immediately, preferably in a heated car. On a cold day, it is helpful to place the plant in a large paper bag before leaving the store.

Be careful not to bruise or bend the plant. The bag will lessen the shock of exposure to lower temperatures and winds. Chilling often causes leaves to drop. In most cases, the red, pink, or white "petals" (actually bracts or colored leaves) will not drop from the plant.

When displayed indoors, keep poinsettias away from drafts or warm spots near heaters and vents. They do best at a daytime temperature no higher than 72 degrees, and above 60 degrees at night. Poinsettias prefer bright light during the day. A sunny window is near ideal. If it is cloudy, a bright lamp is helpful.

Should the plant drop its leaves, use short branches of an evergreen poked in the pot to hide bare stems of the plant. Or, cut the blooms and display them as cut flowers.

Seal the cut with the flame of a candle to prevent the flow of the stem's milky juice. Add one-half teaspoon of liquid Clorox per gallon of water used in the vase. This helps prolong the life of the flowers.

MAKE A SLOPING LANDSCAPE

A sloping terrain adds an interesting accent to a landscape. If your yard has no natural rise, you can create a mound by hauling in soil. You'll be pleased with the 'new look' made by contrasting level ground with a slope. Make certain that the mound is located far enough from the house so water is not diverted toward the foundation during heavy rains.

Designed with appropriate low-growing plants, the mound will become a unique garden in which plants are elevated to create a more vivid display. The beauty of a low-growing plant is more easily viewed and appreciated when it is grown in an elevated bed.

This takes careful plotting and planning. You may need the services of a professional landscaper.

EARLY WINTER TASKS

- Prune dead and unwanted branches from shrubs and trees.
- Replace any plant labels that have weathered and faded in the garden.
- Pinch out tip growth of snapdragon, stock and other newly planted annuals that are growing tall, leggy and floppy.
- Head back roses that have grown tall and leggy. This topping operation protects plants from damage by strong winter winds.
- Photinia, lignstrum, cherry laurel, holly and eleagnus are among the best choices for tall hedges.
- After mums bloom, cut plants back to about 6 inches from the base.
- Set out strawberry plants. If you have an established bed, give it a good winter mulch.
- Among shrubs to plant for fragrance at flowering time: daphne, wintersweet, osmanthus, eleagnus, loquat and witch hazel.
- If you have power tools that run on an oil-and-gas mix, drain fuel from tank. Run the engine until it uses all the fuel in the carburetor.

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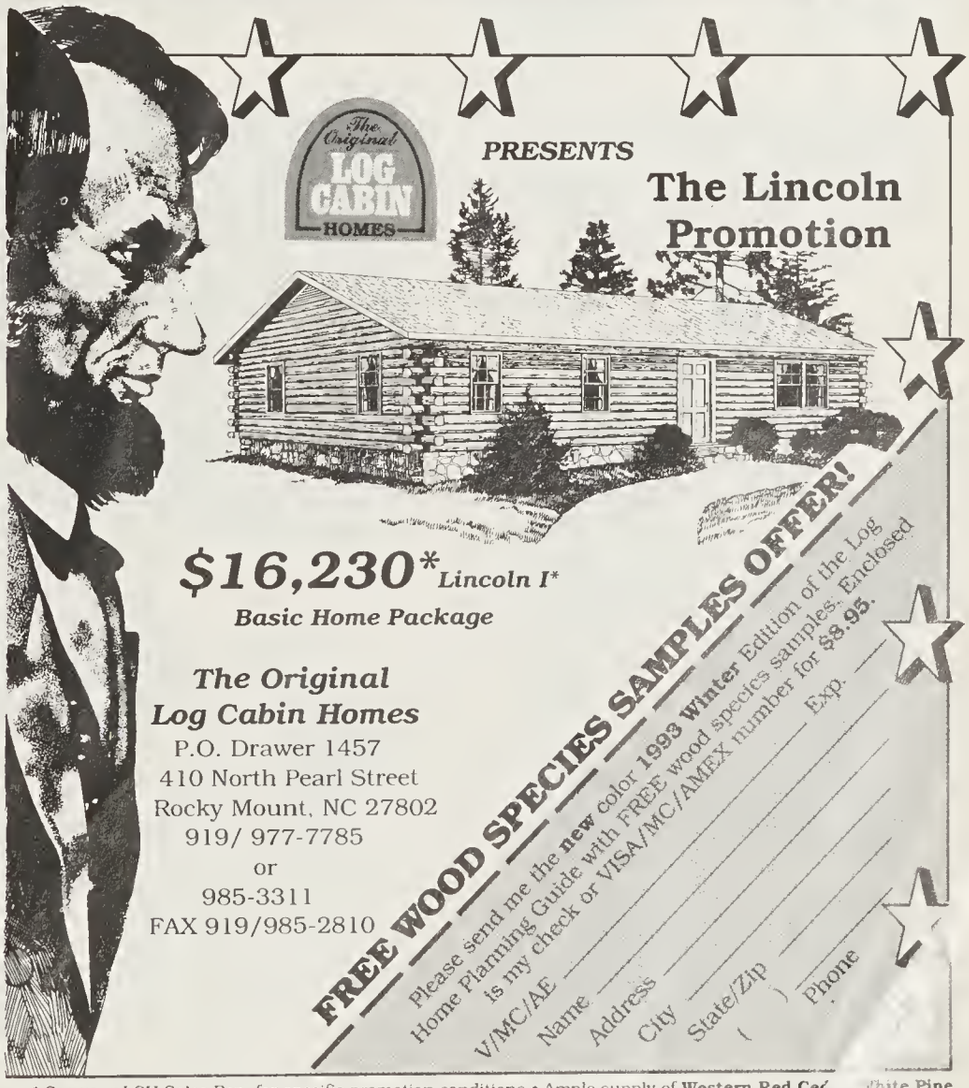

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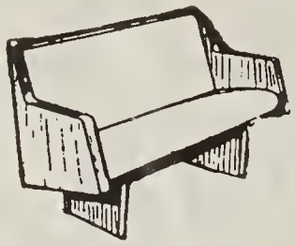

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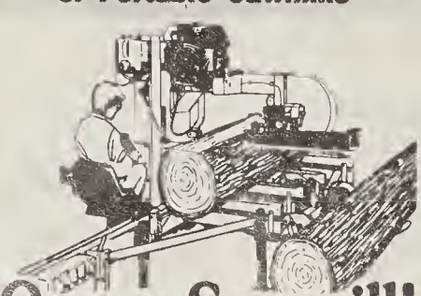

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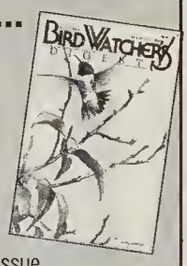

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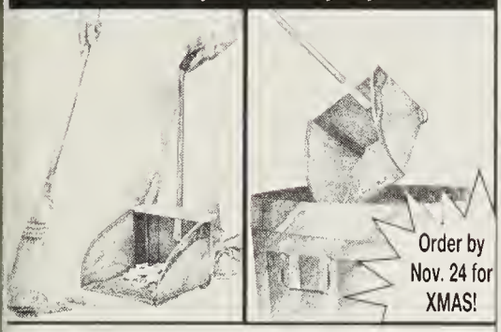

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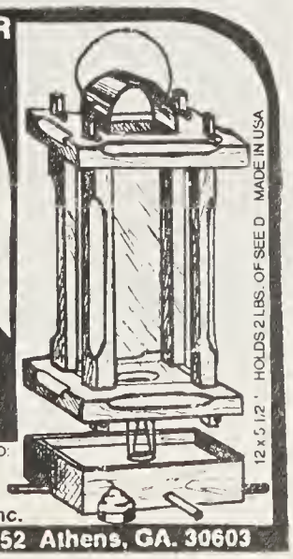

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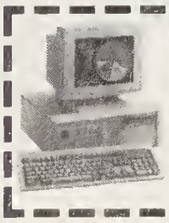

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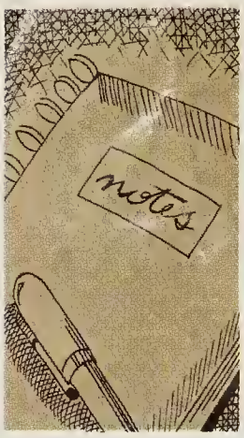


WHAT IS A FALSE MONARCH? ... POLK COUNTY READER IS ANOTHER "BUTTERFLY LADY."

PREDATORS AVOID MONARCHS: IS IT A MATTER OF TASTE?

Our August story about Marsha Hancock, the "Butterfly Lady of Mineral Springs," has stirred more than 200 readers to write her for more information about how to attract monarch butterflies.

She said she's been busier than ever since the article appeared, sending out her guidelines for attracting caterpillars and giving talks about the process that transforms the worm into a lovely butterfly. She was also playing surrogate mother to about 50 butterflies-to-be.

During the summer, she grew milkweed and harvested seed to start a new crop. The milkweed attracts female monarchs, who lay eggs on the plants. She also tagged some of the new butterflies born at her home to see if any of them return to Union County in the spring after spending the winter in Mexico.

The article raised a question with one of our readers, who wrote to us about it.

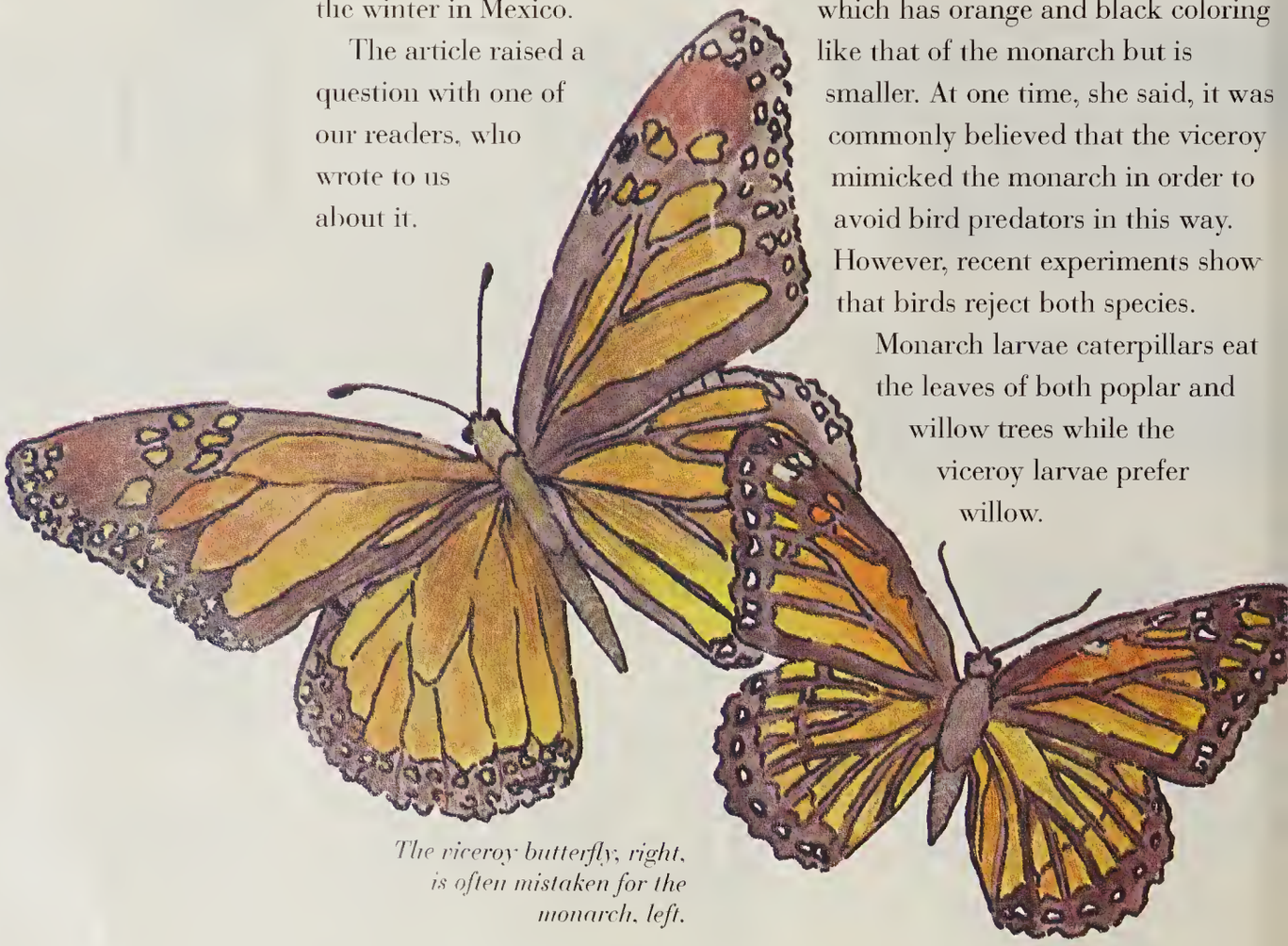
Foster West, a novelist and retired Appalachian State University professor, said he's often stood on the Blue Ridge Parkway in late August and early September to watch monarch butterflies winging their way toward Mexico.

West, a consumer-member of Blue Ridge Electric Membership, Lenoir, wondered if we had heard that some of these butterflies are "false monarchs," which resemble the real thing but never leave North Carolina.

"Nature has bestowed on the "false monarch" a defensive mechanism, which is to appear to be a "true monarch," he wrote. "The true monarch has a very bitter taste as a result of eating milkweed." Since predators can't tell the two varieties apart, they avoid eating both of them, he added.

Mrs. Hancock said the "false monarch" is probably a viceroy, which has orange and black coloring like that of the monarch but is smaller. At one time, she said, it was commonly believed that the viceroy mimicked the monarch in order to avoid bird predators in this way. However, recent experiments show that birds reject both species.

Monarch larvae caterpillars eat the leaves of both poplar and willow trees while the viceroy larvae prefer willow.



The viceroy butterfly, right, is often mistaken for the monarch, left.

Our article also drew a response from a Polk County reader who said she is something of a "butterfly lady" herself.

Ruth J. Boehning of Mill Spring, a consumer-member of Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation, Forest City, wrote: "Congratulations on the article in August's issue and also to Marsha Hancock. Nothing is more exciting than natural science, and our young people especially need to be encouraged to participate—even to just look around them."

She has had a special interest in butterflies ever since she oversaw a school project on the subject while teaching in northeastern North Carolina more than 20 years ago. She started it after discovering caterpillars "munching away on milkweed" in front of an abandoned restaurant.

"From that time on, everyone in my elementary classes participated in the yearly project. The children measured and graphed growth, kept records daily and wrote stories."

Mrs. Boehning said milkweed is scarce in the Polk County area, but her cultivated crop attracted some monarchs earlier this year.

"The project was again carried to a classroom, where interested students waited for the monarch to emerge. This time it was a class of developmental reading students at Isothermal Community College in Spindale, who watched as a female monarch 'backflipped' out of her chrysalis and began to 'pump' up her wings."

If you want more information about Mrs. Hancock's methods for raising milkweed to attract monarchs, send a stamped, self-addressed No. 10 envelope to: Butterfly Lady, P.O. Box 98, Mineral Springs, N.C. 28108.

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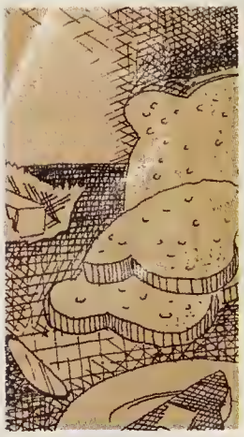

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Submitted by Grace W. Greene, Boone

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¼ teaspoon salt

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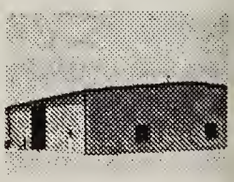

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1992 SWEEPSTAKES Here's what you can win: **SUPER PRIZE: FIVE MILLION DOLLARS** Some mailings may contain preselected entry numbers. The winning number is on a list waiting to be matched to returned entries. Return your entry, and if your number matches, you win. If the winning number is not returned, the FIVE MILLION DOLLARS will be awarded in a random drawing. Our Super Prize winner may choose from several guaranteed annuity options, including $125,000 for 40 years totaling $5,000,000. The present value of all the annuities options as of 6/11/91 is $1,159,423 which may also be paid as one lump sum, at the winner's option. Exact prize amount to be determined as of award date. We GUARANTEE to award the $5,000,000 Super Prize. A Canadian winner would receive CDN $5,700,000 that would be paid as CDN $142,000 annually for 40 years, a lump sum payment of CDN $1,321,742 or choose from the guaranteed annuities options. (Based on exchange rate as of 6/11/91. Exact prize amount to be determined as of award date and at each date of annual payment.) This promotion ends 2/28/94. **OFFICIAL RULES: THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO ALL INFORMATION ABOVE:** There is no purchase necessary. Only official entry forms may be used. Just follow the entry directions published in this offer. This Sweepstakes is under the supervision of an independent judging agency whose decisions are final. Deadline dates and other qualifiers for prize eligibility may be used and are specified in your mailing. Prize winners may be disqualified if these requirements are not met. Winners will receive cash or merchandise prizes or their cash equivalents. Taxes and duties are the winners' responsibility. Winners will be notified by mail; major prize winners must complete, sign and return an Affidavit of Eligibility within 10 days of date of notification. Failure to do so will allow us to award major prizes to another entrant. Any prize notification returned undeliverable after a reasonable attempt to contact winner will also allow us to award major prizes to another entrant. [illegible] constitutes permission to use winners' names and likenesses for publicity purposes without additional compensation. Fingerhut Companies, Inc., its sponsoring these promotions and sponsors may include all its subsidiaries and affiliates. Under a licensing agreement this Sweepstakes may be offered by various commercial organizations other than Fingerhut. Entrants must be 18 years of age or older to be eligible. Sweepstakes open to residents of Canada and the U.S., its territories and possessions. Residents of Quebec are not eligible to enter. Employees of Fingerhut Companies, Inc., its affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies, independent judging agency and all members of their immediate families are not eligible to enter. Sweepstakes are void where prohibited or restricted by law. We are not responsible for lost, mismarked, or delayed entries. Odds of winning are dependent on number of entries received. For a Winners List of Major Prizes Awarded: Mail a stamped, self-addressed envelope no later than 2/28/93 to: "1992 Fingerhut Sweeps Winners List Requests", Dept. C, P.O. Box 6600, Monticello, MN 55565-6600.

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1992:S

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2334611

MAIL TO: Fingerhut Corporation, Box 1900, St. Cloud, MN 56393-1900

☐ **YES.** Please send me the 20-Pc. Country Bear™ Stoneware Set for my 30-day Free Trial AND enter me in the Sweepstakes. Send me my 2 Free Gifts, too, plus a Bonus 3rd Gift for ordering within 15 days.

Product Code N1884

Print Name _____

Address _____ **Apt. No.** _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ **Date** _____

If I am delighted with my 20-Pc. Country Bear™ Stoneware Set at the end of my 30-day Free Trial, I agree to pay the cash price of $29.96 plus shipping and handling (total cash price of $38.96) in 4 monthly installments of $9.74 each. Sales or use tax will be added where applicable. I understand that I may return the Stoneware Set at my expense if I am not completely satisfied at the end of my 30-day Free Trial. The Free Gifts are mine to keep. This order is subject to approval of my credit by Fingerhut. Offer good in USA only, including APO/FPO.

☐ **NO.** I do not wish to order at this time, but please enter me in the Sweepstakes.

Please Sign ✓ _____